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EXHIBIT 11
DATE 2/12/07
HB 343
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TESTIMONY OF THE MONTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB
House Bill 343 by Representative Diane Rice
House Appropriations Committee

Mr. Chairman, members of the House Appropriations Committee, for the record my name is Bob Clark. I'm writing today on behalf of the Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club **in opposition to House Bill 343**. I am sorry I was not able to testify at the hearing on this Bill but I would like to submit the following testimony to the Committee for their consideration

HB 343 asks the State to participate in a lawsuit against the federal government challenging the failure of the federal government to remove wolves from the endangered species list. The State is being asked to join with Friends of the Northern Yellowstone Elk Herd, a public interest organization in their legal effort.

House Bill 343 begins with the following statement, "WHEREAS, wolves are having an intolerable impact on hunting opportunities in Montana..." We question this assumption which the bill is based on and provide the following news article excerpts which show the bountiful harvest of hunting in Montana and the healthy game populations that support it, despite the presence of hundreds of wolves around the State.

- Oct. 20th, 2006 Missoulian: "Montana hunters appear headed to a bountiful harvest during the general deer and elk hunting season, which begins its five-week run at a half-hour before sunrise Sunday.

The weather outlook is generally good. Deer and elk numbers are high in most places. And hunter opportunity in terms of seasons and licenses are liberal pretty much all across Big Sky Country."

- April 8, 2006; JACKSON, Wyo. - The annual winter census by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department estimates 91,555 elk in Wyoming, nearly 9,000 more than what the agency considers the optimal number.

I also refer to HB 389 by Rep. Debby Barrett. Referring to HB 389, Rep. Barrett stated; "state officials need to open more public land if they're serious about killing more elk and getting populations down.

This Bill Drafted from the Dillon area Representative implies that elk populations are up and need to be brought down.

In general, we feel HB 343 is an unnecessary Bill.

The State of Montana has an approved State management plan for wolves. When Wyoming adopts a legitimate and legal State management plan for wolves, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife service will de-list and turn management over to the States. So the hold up is not the Federal

Government rather it's the State of Wyoming. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife service has already announced public meetings and hearings in Montana, Wyoming and other States.

We feel it would be a waste of tax-payer money to participate in a lawsuit regarding this issue considering the current process is leading to a conclusion on its own.

Finally, we feel that it is inappropriate for the State to give tax dollars to lawyers from Budd-Falen law firm of Cheyenne, Wyoming to help pursue a cause that is not in the best interest on Montanans.

Mr. Chairman, we urge your committee to give House Bill 343 a "do not pass" recommendation.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our thoughts to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Clark", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Bob Clark
Sierra Club , Montana Chapter